



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 20, 2000

S. 1998

Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Act of 1999

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on
June 7, 2000*

S. 1998 would establish the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area in the county and city of Yuma, Arizona. The bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement with the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Board of Directors, the designated management entity for the area, to conserve and interpret area resources. The board would develop a management plan that identifies activities and sources of funding to protect and manage the heritage area. In addition, the board would make grants to state and local agencies and other entities to implement the plan. For these purposes, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million, not to exceed \$1 million annually.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1998 would cost \$10 million over the next 10 to 15 years. Such amounts would be used to cover a portion of the costs of establishing, operating, and interpreting the heritage area. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

S. 1998 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). The state of Arizona and local governments within the state might choose to participate in the planning for and management of the national heritage area and would incur some costs as a result. Such costs would be voluntary. Participating governments would be eligible to receive grants to cover a portion of the costs associated with those activities. S. 1998 would impose no costs on other state, local, or tribal governments.

The bill would impose private-sector mandates, but CBO estimates that the total direct costs of those mandates would fall well below the annual threshold established in UMRA (\$109 million in 2000, adjusted annually for inflation) during the first five years that the mandates are in effect.

S. 1998 would impose new private-sector mandates on the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Board of Directors, which the bill would designate as the management entity for the heritage area. The bill would require the board to submit a proposal for a compact with the federal government that addresses objectives and interpretation of the heritage area. The bill also would require the board to develop, and submit to the Secretary of the Interior for approval, a management plan for the heritage area. S. 1998 also would require the board to conduct public meetings regarding the plan and to assist local governments and other organizations in activities related to the purposes of the heritage area. Based on information provided by the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Task Force, CBO estimates that the total direct costs of mandates in the bill would fall well below the annual threshold established in UMRA in any of the first five years that the mandates would be in effect. The bill would authorize appropriations to cover up to 50 percent of the costs of developing and implementing the management plan and would direct the Secretary to provide technical assistance to the management entity upon request.

On June 20, 2000, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2833, the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Act of 2000, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on June 7, 2000. These bills are very similar and our cost estimates are the same.

The CBO staff contacts are Deborah Reis and Ali Aslam (for federal costs), Susan Sieg Tompkins (for the state and local impact), and Natalie Tawil (for the private-sector impact). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.